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## Notes on Philippine Races of *Dryocopus javensis*

by DR. KENNETH C. PARKES

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In connection with my studies of birds of the Philippines, I have had occasion to review the races from that archipelago of the widely-distributed Asian woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*. There appears to be no completely satisfactory English name for this species. Most books I have consulted call it "Great Black Woodpecker", but this name can lead to confusion with *D. martius*. Delacour and Mayr (1946) use the name "White-bellied Black Woodpecker", which is unsuitable for the species as a whole as long as the black-bellied *hodgei* of the Andaman Islands is considered conspecific with *javensis* (Peters, 1948).

The present study is based primarily on the collections of the American Museum of Natural History, supplemented by certain additional material from the Chicago Natural History Museum, U.S. National Museum, and University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. I am indebted to Drs. D. Amadon, A. L. Rand, H. Friedmann, and R. W. Storer, for the use of their material.

In comparing *hargitti* of Palawan with *philippinensis* of Negros, etc., Delacour and Mayr (1946) credit the former with a "bigger bill". This character does not hold up in series, nor is there anything to Hachisuka's (1930) character of "more developed scarlet crest" of *hargitti*. Two characters given by Hachisuka (1934) do separate these races; namely, the richer reds in both sexes and broader moustachial stripe in males of *philippinensis*. In addition, the sides of the face and the throat are more heavily streaked with white and the white dorsal patch more extensive in *hargitti* than in *philippinensis*. Hachisuka (1934) mentions occasional "red tips" to chin, throat and nape feathers of *philippinensis*. A distinct red area is present on the throats of two out of three adult males from Negros, but is absent in a single adult male from Masbate; this variation is not mentioned by Delacour and Mayr.

The original description of *Thriponax philippinensis* Steere (1890) mentioned the islands of Guimaras and Masbate, and both of these islands are cited as type locality by Peters (1948). Hachisuka, (1934), however, lists a specimen from Masbate in the British Museum as the type, and Masbate may thus be considered the restricted type locality of *philippinensis*. A male from Masbate in the American Museum is notable for the great restriction of its white dorsal patch; when all feathers are in place and not disarranged, this patch is almost completely concealed. However, the amount of dorsal white is subject to great individual as well as geographic variation in this species. McGregor (1909) describes Masbate

specimens as having a "wide band of light buff across the lower back", and this description fits a pair of Masbate specimens in the U. S. National Museum. Leyte, Samar, and Bohol birds are supposed to belong to the black-rumped group of this species, but some individuals from these islands have the bases of the rump feathers white.

Incidentally, as Dr. Rand has pointed out to me (*in litt.*), the buff colour of the rump and underparts in this species is due largely to staining, newly-grown feathers being nearly pure white.

The distinguishing character given by Delacour and Mayr (1946) to separate *mindorensis* from *philippinensis*, "much more white on the throat and sides of the head", is valid only on the average, and a female from Mindoro in the American Museum could not be distinguished from *philippinensis* on this basis alone. However, the more slender bill ascribed to *mindorensis* by Hachisuka (1930) is a valid character. Although in the latter paper Hachisuka deprecated bill colour as a subspecific criterion in this species, he later (1934), and I think rightly, admitted that the entirely black bill of *mindorensis* contrasted with the pale lower mandible of *philippinensis*. This character had been pointed out long before by Stresemann (1913).

Delacour and Mayr's description of *multilunatus* of Mindanao and Basilan as having "very little white on the back" is misleading. In only a single Basilan specimen examined is any white at all visible; in most specimens these feathers are not even white at the base. The whitish buff borders of the breast feathers, mentioned by Delacour and Mayr, disappear with wear; this would account for the statement by Stresemann (1913) that *multilunatus* has such pale markings "in der Regel—nicht immer". There is no difference between Mindanao and Basilan specimens.

All descriptions I have seen of the race *suluënsis* differentiate it from *multilunatus* solely on the basis of its smaller size. However, all of the eight adult specimens of *suluënsis* examined (5 American Museum, 3 Carnegie Museum) have a concealed white rump patch formed by the bases of the feathers, and have scarcely any pale edges to the black breast feathers, even in fresh plumage.

The race *pectoralis* is currently assigned a range including the islands of Samar, Leyte, Bohol, and Panaon. I have seen no specimens from the latter island, but comparison of a series of Samar and Bohol birds with a single one from Leyte, and examination of a coloured figure of the types of *pectoralis* from the latter island (Hargitt, 1890) indicate that two subspecies are involved. The unnamed race may be known as:

*Dryocopus javensis samarensis*, subsp. nov.

*Type*: adult ♂, American Museum of Natural History no. 648725, Matuginao, Samar, Philippine Islands; collected 18th April, 1957, by D. S. Rabor (collector's no. 14909).

*Diagnosis*: similar to *D. j. pectoralis* of Leyte, but black markings of chest much more extensive, with narrower pale edges; black streaking of throat much heavier; lores black, not whitish; auriculars with more black, less white and red feathers. None of the specimens of *samarensis* examined has any red in the throat; the single Leyte male in the American Museum has a well-marked red patch in the centre of the throat, but this is undoubtedly subject to individual variation as in the race *philippinensis*, and such a patch is apparently absent in the types of *pectoralis* (Hargitt, 1890).

*Range:* specimens of *samarensis* have been examined from Samar (9), Calicoan (1), and Bohol (5). Although Leyte lies between Samar and Bohol, there is no difference between birds from the latter two islands, and both are clearly distinct from Leyte birds. The small island of Panaon is barely separated from Leyte, and is probably inhabited by true *pectoralis*.

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## Aspects of Relationship between Palaearctic and Ethiopian Wagtails

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The relationship of two of the three species of Ethiopian Wagtails as geographical representatives of widespread Palaearctic forms has been realised for a considerable period. *Motacilla aguimp* was first associated with *Motacilla alba* by Kleinschmidt (1933: 1–3) and the two groups have subsequently been treated as conspecific by Hartert and Steinbacher (1933: 151); Meinertzhagen (1951: 450); Dementiev and Gladkov (1954: 597); Vaurie (1959: 87); and Voous (1959: 36). Likewise the African *Motacilla clara* and the Malagasy *Motacilla flaviventris* have been similarly associated with *M. cinerea*; again the first step in this direction was taken by Kleinschmidt (1931: 1–10) and followed by Hartert and Steinbacher (*loc. cit.*: 148); Meinertzhagen (*loc. cit.*: 450); Dementiev and Gladkov (*loc. cit.*); and Voous (*loc. cit.*: 36), (though this last author does not specifically mention *M. flaviventris*).

Generally, these ideas have not been very widely accepted, nor formally incorporated in the leading faunal works published over the period under review. Nevertheless the relationships would appear to be very real, but the degree of individual divergence involved, requires independent treatment in each case. *M. aguimp* is undoubtedly best allied to *M. alba* as the similarities are great. With the *M. cinerea*—*clara*—*flaviventris* group, the degree of differentiation reached is such that it emphasises specific distinctness, on a morphological basis, but ecologically *cinerea* and *clara* remain true to their very similar habitat preferences and are extremely alike in behaviour, (Moreau 1949: 183–191); though *flaviventris*, the only Malagasy form, occupies a wider ecological niche, (Rand 1936: 475); but this is not unexpected as it has no competitors in its island home. The relative differences however, in the species must in part reflect the period of time that has passed since the original colonisations were made.

Yet a third example within the genus has generally gone unrecognised,